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Response to Transformational Panel's Report - Corrected

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Fri, Jan 22, 2016 at 7:40 PM

To: transformation.panel@opwdd.ny.gov

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Commissioner Delaney and Panel Members:

While I thank all members for the significant effort put into the process and the Transformational Panel's Report, I can only lament the all too brief comment period. So let me be brief.

The list of recommendations is an all encompassing laundry list. A wish list of this magnitude is nearly impossible to fund and implement. Difficult choices would appear to have been avoided. The report lacks both focus and specificity. There are no action plans and, more importantly, no discussion of expense and funding.

Without adequate funding, the recommendations in the report would be meaningless.

Having made these general comments, here are a couple of specifics:

- 1.) Housing, Housing, Housing. Create within the OPWDD a division of residential housing. Tie this division into the existing state and local housing agency expertise provided by agencies like NYSHFA and NYCHDC.
- 2.) Improve (already a pretty low bar) transparency and data sharing.
- 3.) Provide increased support for negotiating the Front Door process. This could be in the form of a 311 style hotline and encouraging volunteer staff within the OPWDD and/or assistance to provider agencies to support their taking on the role.
- 4.) Make the SD process more straightforward.

Time does not allow more comments here and I assume that others will cover items that I have left untouched.

Sincerely

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